

## UNE NOUVELLE ACANTHACÉE D'AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE

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*Elytraria ivorensis* Dokosi, *sp. nov.*

*Elytrariae marginatae* Vahl proxima; sed habitu semper acauli, foliis brevioribus versus basin late cuneatis vix attenuatis, lamina subintegra vix crenata inter nervis supra pubescenti, pedunculo robustiore, distinguitur.

Herba acaulis, annua; folia omnia basalia, bullata, obovata, apice obtuso, basi cuneata vel obtusa, margine subintegro basin versus undulato-corrugato; pagina foliorum subtus glabrata supra pubescens, costa nervisque subtus pubescentibus, costa supra villosa; inflorescentiae 4-10 axillares simplices vel cum 1-2 ramis; pedunculo (7,5-)10(-13,5) cm longo 1,5-2,5 mm diametro, spica puberula purpurascenti tereti (13-) 15 (-20) cm longa, bractee cymbiformes ovatae vel lanceolatae primum aristulatae, laeves, margine scariosa ciliata  $5 \times 2-2,5$  mm, bracteolae binae anguste ovatae; corolla 5,5-6,0 mm longa, labii lobo centrali 2-2,5 mm lato; calycis lobi 5 elliptici, posterior  $5 \times 2$  mm, laterales anterioresque  $5 \times 1,5$  mm; capsula 6-6,5  $\times$  1,5-2 mm; semina laevia 0,6  $\times$  0,4-0,5 mm diametro. Habitat in Ora Eboris ad humum in sylvis.

TYPUS : *Dokosi GC 41 481* (Holo-, K; iso-, P, GC.)

*Elytraria ivorensis* Dokosi has a wide distribution in the forest region of the Ivory Coast. It is close to *Elytraria lyrata* Vahl in being acaulous, but differs from it in the possession of a permanent taproot system and absence of adventitious roots, obovate leaves with subentire margin, being an annual and in the morphology of the floral parts.

*E. ivorensis* Dokosi is similar to *E. marginata* and *E. maritima* in floral characters, but differs from these two species in being acaulous, also in the mode of branching, leaf-shape and hairiness and inflorescence length.

Material studied is from the Abidjan University Botanical Garden. The plants cultivated there were collected from the wild. Some of this material was brought to Ghana and cultivated in the Legon Botanical Garden with the kind permission of Professor L. AKE ASSI. The gene-



Pl. 1. — *Elytraria ivorensis* Dokosi : aspect général.

rations of plants raised from seed of these plants resemble their parents in every respect. *E. marginata*, *E. maritima* and *E. ivorensis* are interfertile but their hybrids produce bad pollen and are sterile. *E. lyrata* does not hybridise with any of the other three species.

The following herbarium specimens were studied in the Abidjan University Herbarium : Forêt d'Amtiolo, 6 déc. 1957, *L. Aké Assi 4486*. — Jardin Botanique d'Adiopodoumé, nov. 1961, *L. Aké Assi 6069*. — *M. Bodard 00.803*, 10 avril 1953, Abengourou; 3793 Lac de L'Arumbo-Boka, 28 August. 1948.

Professor L. AKÉ ASSI later sent me his herbarium collections for a closer study.

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